

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 H-02 NIC-01

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R 301106Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 329

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT SW

SUBJ: CENTER DECLINES IN LATEST PUBLIC OPINION POLL,
NO DRAMATIC CHANGES IN VOTER PREFERENCES

REFS: A. STOCKHOLM 1923; B. STOCKHOLM 2157

SUMMARY. SIFO PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED JUNE 29 SHOWS NO
DRAMATIC CHANGES FROM MAY POLL (REF A). TWP PERCENT DECLINE FOR
CENTER AND OTHER SLIGHT CHANGES ARE READ BY SOME SOCDEMS AS
BEGINNING OF FAVORABLE TREND IN THEIR DIRECTION.

1. RESULTS OF JUNE POLL (MAY RESULTS IN PARENTHESES) ARE:
MODERATES 15 (14), LIBERALS 10 (10.5), CENTER 26 (28), SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS 41 (40), COMMUNISTS - VPK 5 (5.5), SWEDISH COMMUNIST
PARTY (FORMER KFML) 0.5 (0.5), CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (KDS)
2.5 (1.5).

2. CENTER PARTY HAS THUS LOST TWO PERCENT TO 26, ITS LOWEST
FIGURE IN LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT STILL WELL ABOVE 1970 ELECTION'S
19.9.

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SOCDEM GAIN OF ONE PERCENT IS WITHIN SIFO'S MARGIN OF ERROR BUT

SOCDEM POLITICIANS CHOSE TO REGARD FIGURES AS SIGN OF HEARTENING UPTURN. MODERATES CONTINUED STEADY UPWARD MOVEMENT AND LIBERAL'S SLUMP CONTINUED. VPK HELD DEFINITELY ABOVE CRUCIAL FOUR-PERCENT LEVEL. KDS, AT 2.5 PERCENT, REGISTERED HIGHEST FIGURE SINCE 1967.

3. THREE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES, TAKEN TOGETHER, HAVE LOST NEARLY TWO PERCENT IN LAST TWO SIFO MONTHLY POLLS. STANDING OF TWO PROSPECTIVE "BLOCS" IS NOW NON-SOCIALISTS 51 PERCENT, SOCDEMS AND VPK 46. THESE FIGURES ARE THE BASIS FOR CONTINUED OPTIMISM IN NON-SOCIALIST QUARTERS.

4. DAGENS NYHETER (INDEPENDENT - FORMERLY LIBERAL) COMMENTED ON CURRENT SIFO RESULTS THAT SOCDEMS NOT BEEN IN WORSE SITUATION THREE MONTHS BEFORE ELECTION SINCE 1928 CAMPAIGN. DN CONCEDES, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH CAN HAPPEN AFTER SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16 ELECTIONS. IN 1968 SOCDEMS PICKED UP SIX PERCENT FROM JUNE TO ELECTION DAY, WHILE IN 1970 THEY LOST 5 PERCENT IN SAME PERIOD.

5. EMBOFF (AND JOHN OWENS, VISITING FROM EUR/NE) MET WITH CENTER PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY, WHO SAID HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT CENTER'S TWO PERCENT DROP IN LATEST SIFO POLL. HE PREDICTED CENTER WILL DO "VERY WELL" IN ELECTIONS AND THAT SOCDEM PARTY WILL BE DEFEATED.

COMMENT: IN EMBASSY JUDGMENT THERE IS PROBABLY SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN HALT OF SOCDEM DOWNWARD SLIDE IN SIFO SWEEPSTAKES, BUT OVERALL PICTURE IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF LITTLE MOVEMENT IN CONTEST BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND NON-SOCIALIST PARTY GROUPINGS. IF SIFO POLLS ARE REASONABLY ACCURATE, SOCDEMS AND VPK TOGETHER WOULD HAVE TO PICK UP 3-4 PERCENT BY ELECTION DAY TO REMAIN IN POWER - NO IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

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